



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

311 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5520
(530) 626-4756 FAX
eldcag@edcgov.us

Greg Boeger, Chair – Agricultural Processing Industry
David Bolster Vice-chair – Fruit and Nut Farming Industry
Chuck Bacchi – Livestock Industry
Bill Draper – Forestry Related Industries
Ron Mansfield – Fruit and Nut Farming Industry
Tim Neilsen, Livestock Industry
Lloyd Walker – Other Agricultural Industries

June 15, 2021

Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

SUBJECT: Letter of recommendation to support a research project such as the one proposed involving the University of California, Davis and a local El Dorado County vineyard

During the Agricultural Commission's regularly scheduled ZOOM meeting held on June 9, 2021, 6:30 pm the Commission heard a request from The Somerset Gourmet Farm located at 6540 Perry Creek Road, Somerset, California to conduct a preliminary research study on the influence of Industrial Hemp in wine grapes. In collaboration with Dr. Anita Oberholster, UC Davis Extension, Viticulture Department, the proposal is to interplant 500 Industrial Hemp plants in the Fairplay Appellation Zinfandel Vineyard. At various intervals, grape, air quality and meteorological samples will be measured, recorded and collected for laboratory analysis. The wine grapes harvested will be professionally made into wine. The grape analysis at harvest will be examined for any influences from the hemp planting. The wine made from those grapes will be additionally analyzed. The project will have a control field sufficient distance from the interplanted Industrial Hemp field to allow a scientific comparative analysis.

County Counsel Daniel Vandekoolwyk and Commissioner Charlene Carveth addressed the Commission and mentioned that in order to accommodate this recommendation the Board of Supervisors would require an ordinance change on the existing EDC ordinance for a moratorium on Hemp # 5138. In addition, Ms. Carveth informed Commission that due to the policy and legal requirements required to amend an ordinance, it was not possible for those revisions to be implemented in time to allow for this project to be conducted during the 2021 Hemp growing season.

Due to the importance of having a local study measuring the impact of hemp on local grapes in El Dorado County the Agriculture Commission believes this research that is being proposed is

Meeting Date: June 9, 2021

very important for our growers to be a part of and will assist the Agriculture Commission in bringing a meaningful recommendation to your Board in November as requested on May 18, 2021 Legistar item #21-0948.

The Commission believes that without this data they will not be able to provide comprehensive recommendations by November 2021 as requested by the Board of Supervisors. However, if there's not enough time to modify the ordinance for the 2021 growing season on behalf of the Commission I am requesting the Board of Supervisors ensure the necessary revisions are made to the County's ordinance to allow for such a study during the 2022 growing season.

The motion the Commission is making is for a recommendation request only for this study to be conducted with your approval. Here's a copy of the motion that was passed on June 9, 2021

It was moved by Commissioner Draper and seconded by Commissioner Bacchi to recommend sending a letter of request to have the Hemp Moratorium lifted for this study to move forward no later than July 15, 2021, involving the University of California, Davis as the study here locally could have significant impact on our wine grape industry and effects from the Hemp.

Motion passed:

AYES: Walker, Boeger, Bacchi, Draper, Bolster, Neilsen

VERBAL AYE: Mansfield, (Board Clerk didn't call Commissioner Mansfield during the meeting, and asked for his vote after the meeting)

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Sincerely,



Greg Boeger
Agricultural Commission Chair

cc: Chief Administrative Officer Don Ashton
Ag Commission Members
County Counsel Daniel Vandekoolwyk
Ag Commissioner Charlene Carveth